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Anthony [US/US]; 7003 Stewart Court, Indianapolis, IN 46256 (US). DUFFIELD, David, Jay [US/US]; 5459 Fall Creek Road, Indianapolis, IN 46220 (US). CARLS-GAARD, Eric, Stephen [US/US]; 6775 Woodcliff Circle, Zionsville, IN 46077 (US).

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(74) Agents: TRIPOLI, Joseph, S et al.; Thomson Licensing, Inc., Two Independence Way, Princeton, NJ 08540 (US).

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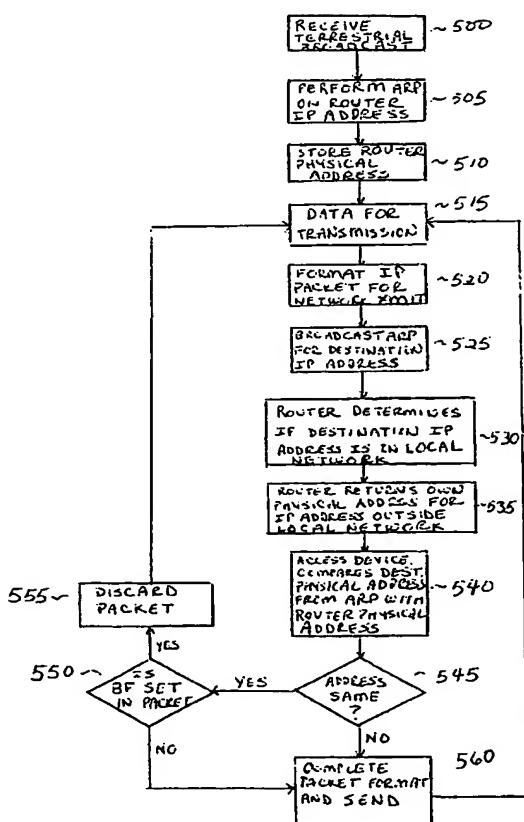
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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THOMSON LICENSING S.A. [FR/FR]; 46, Quai A. Le Gallo, F-92648 Boulogne (FR).

(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): STAHL, Thomas,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING THE DISTRIBUTION OF DIGITALLY ENCODED DATA IN A NETWORK



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and a method for controlling distribution of digital content from a device attached to a network to another device outside the network. The device receives a digital signal containing content (500), the digital signal having an authorization field indicative of a first transport mode authorizing the content for distribution outside the network, and of a second transport mode wherein the content is not authorized for transmission outside the network. The method comprises the steps of receiving location information of a router (505) on the network for routing content to devices outside the network; receiving destination data indicative of location information associated with a destination device to which the device intends to distribute the content; determining whether the destination device is outside the network based on the router location information and the received destination data; examining the authorization field (515) and, inhibiting transmission of the content if the destination device is outside the network and the digital signal is in the inhibit mode.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 15/173
US CL : 709/238, 231, 201

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 709/238, 231, 201; 370/392, 401

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WEST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A,E	US 6,711,172 B1 (LI) 23 March 2004	1-18
A	US 5,996,021 (CIVANLAR et al) 30 November 1999	1-18
A	US 6,415,323 B1 (McCANNE et al) 02 July 2002	1-18
A	US 6,167,444 (BODEN et al) 26 December 2000	1-18
A,E	US 6,693,878 B1 (DARUWALLA et al) 17 February 2004	1-18

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

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Abdullahi Salad

Telephone No. 703-305-3900